

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A vascular catheter comprising:

5 An elongated tubular member with a proximal shaft portion and a distal shaft portion,  
the distal shaft section has a first stiffness;

An intravascular device on the distal shaft portion, the distal shaft section has a second  
stiffness at the intravascular device position; and

10 A transition member on the distal shaft portion bridging the first stiffness and second  
stiffness.

2. A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member comprises a tubular member.

3. A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft  
section on at least one side of the intravascular device.

4. A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft  
15 section on both sides of the intravascular device.

5. A catheter of 1 wherein the transition member comprises a radiopaque marker.

6. A vascular catheter for performing vascular procedures, the vascular catheter  
comprising:

An elongated shaft having an elongated inner shaft, an elongated outer shaft coaxial  
20 with the inner shaft, a proximal shaft section and a distal shaft section;

A means for performing a vascular procedure on the distal shaft section; and

A transition means on the distal shaft section adjacent the means for performing a  
vascular procedure.

7. A vascular catheter of claim 6 wherein the means for performing a vascular procedure is a stent delivery system.
  8. A vascular catheter of claim 6 wherein the transition member is a sleeve on the inner shaft of the vascular catheter.
- 5    9. A vascular catheter of claim 6 and wherein the transition member further comprises a radiopaque marker.